

Amendment No. 9 to HB1049

**Fitzhugh
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 999

House Bill No. 1049*

by adding the following language as new § 49-1-1210 in the amendatory language of Section 1:

49-1-1210.

(a)

(1) The department of education shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study on the academic improvement of scholarship students using data obtained from the assessments given under § 49-1-1203(a)(4). A scholarship student who for any reason is not tested under § 49-1-1203(a)(4), including disenrollment from a participating school, shall be counted as not improving.

(2) If, at the end of the study, the majority of all scholarship students who have participated in the program do not show improvement in student achievement, then all scholarship funds paid to participating schools shall be refunded by the schools to the department of education. The department of education shall distribute the refunded funds to the LEAs in the manner that the funds would have been distributed for each school year if the scholarship program had not been in place.

(b) The five-year longitudinal study shall begin when the scholarship program begins. The department shall thereafter conduct a five-year longitudinal study as directed in subsection (a) beginning at the conclusion of the immediately preceding study. If at the end of any five-year study, the department concludes that the majority of the students in the scholarship program have not improved academically, then the refund of funds required in subdivision (a)(2) shall be made by each participating school for the five (5) school years covered by the study.